

House File 533 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY WHITAKER

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the operation of medium-speed electric
2 vehicles on certain roads, providing registration fees for
3 low-speed and medium-speed electric vehicles, and providing a
4 penalty.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
6 TLSB 2202YH 83
7 dea/nh/8

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1 1 Section 1. Section 321.1, Code 2009, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:
3 NEW SUBSECTION. 37A. a. "Medium-speed electric vehicle"
4 means a self-propelled, electrically powered four-wheeled
5 motor vehicle that meets all of the following conditions:
6 (1) Is equipped with a roll cage or has a crush-proof body
7 design.
8 (2) Has a wheelbase of forty inches or greater and a wheel
9 diameter of ten inches or greater.
10 (3) Is fully enclosed and has at least one door for entry.
11 (4) Is capable of attaining a maximum speed exceeding
12 twenty-five miles per hour but not exceeding fifty miles per
13 hour on a paved, level surface, as certified by the
14 manufacturer.

15 (5) Except with respect to maximum speed, meets or exceeds
16 federal motor vehicle safety standards in 49 C.F.R. } 571.500.

17 b. A medium-speed electric vehicle which is in compliance
18 with the equipment requirements in 49 C.F.R. } 571.500 shall
19 be deemed to be in compliance with all equipment requirements
20 of this chapter.

21 Sec. 2. Section 321.116, Code 2009, is amended to read as
22 follows:

23 321.116 ELECTRIC AUTOMOBILES VEHICLES.

24 For an electric motor vehicle the annual fee is twenty-five
25 dollars. However, if an electric motor vehicle is more than
26 five model years old, the annual registration fee is fifteen
27 dollars. ~~This section does not apply to low-speed vehicles~~

~~that are electric.~~

29 Sec. 3. Section 321.381A, Code 2009, is amended to read as
30 follows:

31 321.381A OPERATION OF LOW-SPEED VEHICLES AND MEDIUM-SPEED
32 ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

33 1. A low-speed vehicle shall not be operated on a street
34 with a posted speed limit greater than thirty-five miles per
35 hour. This section shall not prohibit a low-speed vehicle
2 1 from crossing a street with a posted speed limit greater than
2 2 thirty-five miles per hour.

2 3 2. A medium-speed electric vehicle shall not be operated
2 4 on a street or highway with a posted speed limit greater than
2 5 fifty-five miles per hour. This subsection shall not prohibit
2 6 a medium-speed electric vehicle from crossing a street or
2 7 highway with a posted speed limit greater than fifty-five
2 8 miles per hour.

2 9 EXPLANATION

2 10 This bill regulates the operation of medium-speed electric
2 11 vehicles on certain Iowa roads and establishes annual
2 12 registration fees for low-speed and medium-speed electric
2 13 vehicles.

2 14 Currently, Iowa law regulates the operation of certain
2 15 low-speed vehicles, which are capable of maximum speeds of up
2 16 to 25 miles per hour and are permitted on roads with a speed
2 17 limit of 35 miles per hour or less.

2 18 The bill defines "medium-speed electric vehicle" as a

2 19 self-propelled, electrically powered four-wheeled motor
2 20 vehicle that is equipped with a roll cage or has a crush-proof
2 21 body design; has a wheelbase of 40 inches or greater and a
2 22 wheel diameter of 10 inches or greater; is fully enclosed with
2 23 at least one entry door; can attain a maximum speed exceeding
2 24 25 miles per hour but not exceeding 50 miles per hour on a
2 25 paved, level surface as certified by the manufacturer; and
2 26 meets or exceeds federal motor vehicle equipment and safety
2 27 standards for low-speed vehicles. The bill specifies that if
2 28 those federal equipment standards are met, a medium-speed
2 29 electric vehicle is deemed to be in compliance with motor
2 30 vehicle equipment standards under Iowa law.

2 31 The bill restricts the operation of medium-speed electric
2 32 vehicles to roads with a posted speed limit no greater than 55
2 33 miles per hour. A violation is punishable as a simple
2 34 misdemeanor, subject to a scheduled fine of \$50. This is the
2 35 same penalty that currently applies to the operation of a
3 1 restricted low-speed vehicle on a road with a speed limit
3 2 greater than 35 miles per hour.

3 3 Otherwise, provisions in existing law that apply to
3 4 titling, registration, and operation of motor vehicles apply
3 5 to medium-speed electric vehicles. Pursuant to current law,
3 6 the annual registration fee for electric vehicles is \$25. The
3 7 fee drops to \$15 when the vehicle is more than five model
3 8 years old. However, low-speed vehicles that are electric are
3 9 subject to fees based on the weight and value of the vehicle.
3 10 Under the bill, the flat fees for electric vehicles apply to
3 11 all electric vehicles including low-speed and medium-speed
3 12 electric vehicles.

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3 14 dea/nh/8.1